



A.D. 1871, 19th OCTOBER. N<sup>o</sup> 2787.

SPECIFICATION

OF

JAMES WILLIAMS.

VAPOUR AND STEAM BATHS.

LONDON:

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1872.







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## Vapour and Steam Baths.

*(This Invention received Provisional Protection only.)*

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by James Williams at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 19th October 1871.

I, JAMES WILLIAMS, of The Mount, Malvern, in the County of Worcester, a Doctor of Medicine, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION AND ARRANGEMENT OF VAPOUR AND STEAM BATHS, AND MODE OF OPERATING THEREWITH FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES," to be as follows:—

The features of novelty of this Invention consist, 1st, in making the bath chamber sufficiently large to enclose the whole person.

2nd. Making the reclining seat as a double inclined plane, to enable the patient to recline the body, instead of keeping it erect as heretofore.

3rd. Lining the bath chamber with metal for the better radiation of heat.

4th. The introduction of glass at the upper part of the bath chamber to render it light and cheerful.



*Williams' Impts. in the Construction and Arrangement of Steam Baths.*

5th. The use of superheated and medicated steam, either separately or combined.

6th. The use of electro-magnetic or galvanic currents in the bath, whilst the person therein is under the influence of the superheated and medicated steam. 5

I construct my improved bath chamber and bath in the following manner:—The outer case or shell of the chamber I form of wood, and the sides and roof thereof I line with sheet metal. I also adapt a ventilator to the top of the roof and sides of the chamber. The floor of the bath chamber I form perforated or with interstices, and between the said 10 floor and the bottom of the outer case of the chamber I arrange a tortuous perforated pipe, through which I pass superheated steam from a suitable steam generator and superheater. Upon the aforesaid perforated floor I adapt a reclining perforated seat made as a double incline, with a screw adjustment for raising the back and head of the 15 person to any desired elevation. I also adapt a vessel beneath the said reclining seat, near the foot thereof, and place in the said vessel herbs or drugs of any approved and suitable description, and enclose the said herbs or drugs by a perforated lid or cover. I then introduce and mix steam with the said herbs or drugs, and by these 20 means am enabled to medicate the steam. I further propose in operating with the above bath to apply electro-magnetic or galvanic currents to the spine or other parts of the person by conducting wires and plates suitably arranged and connected. In connection with the foregoing arrangements I employ a flexible pipe and rose for directing 25 a current of hot and cold water to the person in the bath. I also adapt a thermometer to the bath chamber to ascertain and regulate the temperature within. By the above arrangements to avoid the objections to the common vapour bath. For instance, the common vapour bath is not sufficiently complete in its construction, as it does not enclose 30 the whole person, the head is excluded, and consequently the lungs and the whole breathing surface are not acted upon by the vapour.

The Turkish bath and the Russian vapour chamber are the only baths which secure this great desideratum, viz., the application of heat to the pulmonary mucous membrane, but the absence of moisture and 35 the high temperature at which the Turkish bath is given, from one hundred and forty to one hundred and eighty degrees, are in many cases objectionable and unnecessary. The improved vapour bath



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which I have constructed encloses the whole body, secures uniform perspiration at a temperature varying from one hundred and five to one hundred and fifteen degrees, produces neither languor, headache, nor feverish symptoms which often result from the common Turkish  
5 bath.

Another objection to the Turkish bath is the consumption of time, it requires nearly two hours to take one of those baths with safety, whereas by my improved bath from fifteen to twenty minutes is quite sufficient. I also consider the reclining posture best, which the ordinary  
10 vapour bath does not admit of, and I generally find this position secures tranquility in the heart's action.

Another result I secure is to pass the hot vapour by means of a curved pipe through the fire, thus superheating the vapour and making it nearly transparent. In some cases a judicious medication wonderfully  
15 increases the efficacy of the vapour, as sulphur, camphor, herbs, &c. In this form these substances are the reverse of unpleasant, and are highly beneficial. The power of the vapour bath is increased by the addition of aromatic substances, for example, sulphur or chlorine, which are amongst the most powerful auxiliaries in the cure of chronic  
20 rheumatism, and in glandular and other obstructions, liver complaints, and enlargement of the spleen; and they have extraordinary efficacy, along with proper internal remedies, in the removal of leprous, scorbutic, and various cutaneous disorders.

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